



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

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### **1AD Engineers Clean Up UN Site in Baghdad**

#### **Story and Photo by Master Sgt. David Melancon 1AD PAO**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class George Cote, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, was looking for a little serenity when he arrived at the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment's base camp, called Camp Marlboro, near the neighborhood of Sadr City in Baghdad three months ago.

The 2nd ACR, based in Fort Polk, La., is attached to the 1st Armored Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A broken fountain in the traffic circle in front of the squadron's headquarters building's main entrance way provides the intelligence noncommissioned officer piece of mind and a lot of off-duty work.

"I've been working on this for about two months," he said. "It was clogged with algae, paint and other stuff. I had to replace the pump."

There are no screens or filters to keep debris, chipped paint and algae out of the pipes and pump system, he said. When the camp's power goes down, Cote has to start over, almost from scratch – clearing the lines, water nozzles and pump.

It's a never-ending project but is also a labor of love and with a purpose, he said.

He checks the fountain daily, clearing the fountain's two dozen water nozzles with a piece of wire one at a time.

But when all the gook and goo is cleared, water can stream to a height of more than six feet, he said.

It's the sound of the falling water that is the most soothing, Cote said.

"It's a welcome sign for the troops," Cote said. "They see this when they come in from the city. It tells them they're back home and they can relax."

Over time, Cote will have some benches, plant flowers and restore bushes surrounding the 60-foot circle.

Cote's sanctuary brings more than a little quiet time for soldiers. It is also a source of water and a favorite swimming hole for birds, he said.

"When it is running really good, birds will fill the ledges, swim and generally hang out," he said. "It is a bird sanctuary."

The fountain is just one sign of the improvements taking place on Camp Marlboro, temporary home to the squadron's and attached units' 900 soldiers, Cote said. The camp now boasts a laundromat, Internet café with 20 computers, air-conditioning in the warehouse-barracks and work areas.

Camp Marlboro also boasts an indoor movie theater, ping-pong and pool tables in the dining facility, said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Waters, squadron sergeant major.

The camp also has a soldier-run post exchange and barbershop, he said. The squadron will have a (non-alcoholic) sports bar and several sports satellite stations set up before the start of football season.

The squadron has obtained seven satellite telephones for the squadron and each troop, battery and company has its own cell phones so soldiers can contact their families, he said.

"We came here five months ago into a cigarette factory that was in total disarray. It is mildly looted on the inside and massively looted on the outside," Waters said. "Now we have a place that's clean with good living conditions for our soldiers."

Squadron soldiers also participate in morale, welfare and recreation trips to Qatar or to the swimming pool located at regimental headquarters and most, depending on their mission, receive regular days off, he said.



**Sgt. 1st Class George Cote, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, repairs a fountain located in front of his squadron headquarters in Baghdad.**

Also, life outside the camp's perimeter has improved for the residents of Sadr City and that makes life better for soldiers living inside the wire, Waters said.

"Because of the constant weapons fire, we had to walk around in full battle rattle (Kevlar helmets and flak vests)," he said. "Now we can walk around with just our weapons and soft caps."

Soldiers have also purchased their own televisions, DVD players and other recreation items, he said. Many have used empty shipping cartons from the cigarette factory to build rooms and make-shift furniture in their warehouse homes, he said.

In the meantime, Cote has his fountain and his piece of mind. "I like messing with this," he said. "It gives me my time and a chance to wind down."

### **A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety**

#### **HALON 1301 FIRE EXTINGUISHER SYSTEM**

**-- Halon 1301 can cause suffocation by reducing oxygen available for breathing.**

**-- A Halon 1301 fire extinguisher system was accidentally discharged in a building and everybody was evacuated until the Halon 1301 gas dissipated.**

**-- If Halon 1301 fire extinguisher system is activated take the following actions:**

- Evacuate all personnel from building.
- Report incident to fire department.
- Ventilate building.
- Do not re-enter building until cleared by the fire department.

**DO NOT TAMPER WITH HALON 1301 FIRE EXTINGUISHER SYSTEM**

## NEWS

### France, Germany Criticize Iraq Resolution

DRESDEN, Germany (AP) - The leaders of Germany and France criticized a U.S. draft resolution seeking international troops and money for Iraq, saying it falls short by not granting responsibility to Iraqis or a large enough role to the United Nations. But officials from both countries said the U.S. proposal was a good basis for negotiations, and Russia signalled it could send peacekeepers to Iraq, depending on the final resolution. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States welcomes "constructive input" on the draft put forward a day earlier, which he said addresses France and Germany's concerns.

### FBI Says 2 of 3 Latest Iraq Bombs Similar

WASHINGTON (AP) - The FBI has identified similarities between two of the three recent bombings in Iraq but is not yet able to pinpoint whether the attacks were perpetrated by the same people, officials said Thursday. FBI chemical tests found similar munitions were used in the Aug. 7 bombing of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad and the attack on the United Nations headquarters there 12 days later, said John Pistole, a senior FBI counterterrorism official.

### Hurricane Fabian Churns Toward Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP) - Hurricane Fabian pushed toward Bermuda on Thursday, churning waters and sending residents into frenzied preparations for what could be the worst storm to hit the islands in years. Fabian's eye was expected to reach Bermuda by Saturday. Bermuda's government issued a hurricane warning Thursday ahead of the Category 3 storm with winds of 120 mph.

### Some Charges Dropped Against Nude Walker

LONDON (AP) - A man who has been repeatedly arrested for trying to walk the length of Britain naked was given a brief respite Thursday when prosecutors in southern England dropped charges against him. But Steve Gough, seeking to trek 847 miles wearing little more than sunscreen, socks and boots, still faces charges in Scotland, where he is in jail awaiting trial next month.

### Chaplain's thought for the day: *Little Nicks – Big Trouble!*

We couldn't figure it out. My son and I had purchased an old powerboat for fishing and couldn't make it run properly. We were unable to get it up to speed, and it shuddered when we tried to go faster. We figured that the trouble was with the fuel system, so we adjusted the carburetor and changed the fuel filter. But that still didn't solve the problem. When we took the boat out of the water, my son found the cause of the trouble. One of the propeller fins had a 3/4-inch (2 cm) nick in it. That can't be it, I thought. That nick is too small. But when we installed a new propeller, what a difference it made! We had been slowed down by a tiny nick. Little nicks can cause big trouble. We say to ourselves, how can such a little thing make any difference? It doesn't hurt anyone. A task left undone, how can that make a difference? It's not a big deal it can wait till tomorrow. But tomorrow comes and now it is not one task to be done but another and another. Worse yet someone else has had to do what we should have done ourselves.

Remember, little nicks can cause big trouble.

## SPORTS

### Congressman: Change NCAA Champ Series

WASHINGTON (AP) - Days into the new college football season, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee said Thursday the system in which a national collegiate champion is determined needs to be changed. "I think you're throwing the baby out with the bath water by allowing this to continue," Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said of the NCAA's Bowl Championship Series, which excludes many schools from automatic bids to compete in the lucrative bowl postseason.

### Oddly Enough...

### Man Accused of Kidnapping Neighbor's Cat

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) -- Deryl Miles is accused of cat nabbing. Miles, 55, allegedly kidnapped his neighbor's cat and held it hostage for \$50 after the animal wandered into his yard. He was arrested Tuesday on misdemeanor larceny charges for allegedly trapping the cat, named Brunswick, in a wooden shed behind his mobile home, according to court documents. Surrounded by police, Miles called a local newspaper from his trailer and said "I've taken (the cat) legally because it was trespassing on my property." Miles refused to release the cat, and was arrested after leading police on a brief chase around his yard, court documents stated. The cat's owner, Leah Vader, said she called police after hearing her pet howling from the shed next door. "You have the right to call animal control if you have an unwanted animal in your yard," she said. "You don't have the right to hold him for ransom."

### On This Day in History *September 5<sup>th</sup> 1882*

On September 5, 1882, some 10,000 workers assembled in New York City to participate in America's first Labor Day parade. After marching from City Hall to Union Square, the workers and their families gathered in Reservoir Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches. This first Labor Day celebration was initiated by Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader who a year earlier cofounded the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, a precursor of the American Federation of Labor. McGuire had suggested a September date in order to provide a break during the long stretch between Independence Day and Thanksgiving. While the first Labor Day was held on a Tuesday, the holiday was soon moved to the first Monday in September, the date we continue to honor. New York's Labor Day celebrations inspired similar events across the country. Oregon became the first state to grant legal status to the holiday in 1887; other states soon followed. In 1894, Congress passed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday.